

Wright State University

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University Libraries' Annual Reports

University Libraries

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4-11-2019

## Wright State University Libraries Annual Report 2018

Wright State University Libraries

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## University Librarian's Note

The University Libraries celebrated several milestones in 2018 including receiving \$1.1 million in state capital funds for carpet replacement and modernization, successfully crowdfunding the conservation of the Wright Brothers Bent End Propeller, completing the digitization of the Bishop Milton Wright diaries, and launching four online Research Toolkit workshops. Our staff worked diligently to complete these projects while maintaining our high-quality level of service. The year was not without challenges, however. We experienced our largest budget cut in 20 years that resulted in the additional loss of staff and the cancellation of many databases and journals. Reacting to a large budget cut has forced us to reevaluate priorities, adjust resources and services, and cross-train our staff to effectively deliver library services to the Wright State University community. Our staff are resilient and remain committed to our mission of facilitating student and employee success and fostering innovation and life-long learning in our diverse community. I hope you will enjoy reading about our accomplishments, challenges, and outstanding staff in our 2018 annual report.

Sue Polanka, M.L.S.  
University Librarian

"Long live Wright State Libraries and your amazing staff, students, and librarians!!!"

## University Libraries Administration

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University Librarian

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# Staff Achievements & Recognition

## Bette Sydelko Retires After 27 Years of Service



Bette Sydelko, Medical & Education Librarian serving the Boonshoft School of Medicine and the College of Education and Human Services retired after 27 years of service. She worked for 18 years at the Fordham Health Sciences Library and for her last nine years in Dunbar Library. According to Bette, helping medical students learn more about library research was the most rewarding aspect of her career. If you've ever gotten help from our [Ask a Librarian](#) service, Bette is one of the many people you can thank for the early years of online library chat in Ohio. When [OhioLINK](#) got involved with statewide chat services many years ago, Bette was on its WebRef committee, which first started as its own service and then got involved with the public libraries' 24/7 KnowitNow service. We owe a lot of thanks to Bette and her fellow early-adopters for the fast, friendly, local service we enjoy today. She considers it a privilege to have helped online reference service, an ever-growing field, get started in Ohio.

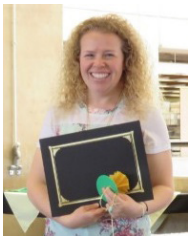
Bette has contributed to Wright State and the library profession in a number of other ways, including:

- Provider of [RefWorks](#) instruction and administration
- The University Libraries Assessment Team Member and former Coordinator of Assessment
- Former Head of Reference at the Fordham Health Sciences Library
- Contributor to Horizons in Medicine program for high school students from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds
- Member of the WSU Institutional Review Board
- Longtime member of the [OhioLINK](#) User Services Committee as the medical librarian representative
- Active participant in professional service as committee member or elected officer at the local, state, regional, and national levels of several health science librarian organizations
- External member and consultant of the Review Committee for the Library NEOMED
- Contributed as a selector for *Doody's Core Titles for Health Sciences* since its creation 15 years ago

## Library StARS!

For the last 25 years, the University Libraries have honored two employees annually as StARS. StARS are the Libraries' Staff Achievement and Recognition Awards, nominated and selected by library employees and funded by the Friends of the Libraries. 2018 winners included Chris Nimmer and Maggie Perry.

Chris Nimmer, Library Operation Specialist, plays a vital role in providing library services. Have you ever requested a book from OhioLINK and had it delivered to the Wright State University Libraries? If so, he was involved. He pulls 25,000 books per year to ship to OhioLINK schools and receives 25,000 more books for our campus users. Chris also maintains the third and fourth floor stacks and helps with library-wide stacks projects. Chris is one of our many behind-the-scenes staff members doing valuable work.



Maggie Perry, Information Desk Day Supervisor, coordinates the scheduling and operations of the 2nd floor Information Desk and assists patrons with their multimedia projects in the Student Technology Assistance Center (STAC). If you have visited the 2nd floor of the library, you have probably received a friendly smile and excellent service from Maggie or one of her highly trained student employees. Maggie hires, trains, and supervises the Information Desk student employees and coordinates the bookings of our 13 new study rooms.

### Years of Service

The University Libraries would like to acknowledge and thank these dedicated staff for their combined 130 years of service!

#### 25 Years of Service

- Karen Wilhoit, Associate University Librarian for Collections
- Marty Jenkins, Head of Content Acquisitions and Management

#### 20 Years of Service

- Brian Olesko, Science and Social Sciences Librarian
- Leigh Duncan, Head of Library Technology Services
- Edward Trentman, Library Associate

#### 10 Years of Service

- Maggie Perry, Information Desk Day Supervisor
- Barbara Conklin, Office Assistant



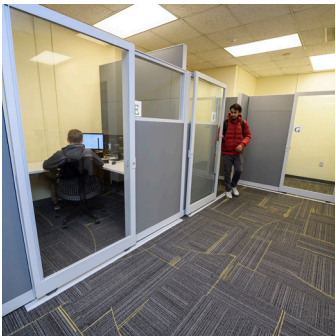
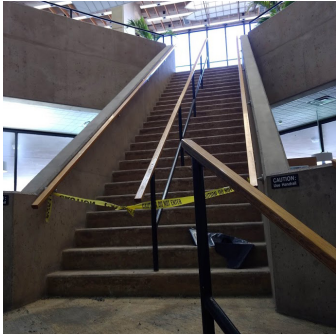
# Capital Funding Improvements Launched

In the fall of 2017 the University Libraries submitted a \$1.1 million State Capital Funding Request for carpet replacement and modernization. We were thrilled to learn in the spring of 2018 that our projects were selected. The plan for our funds was to replace the 20-year-old carpet in the public areas of the library, purchase new furniture and modernize study spaces. The funding comes to us from the State of Ohio's 2-year capital budget. These are one-time funds for capital projects such as deferred maintenance and tangible improvements.

"I would love to see new comfy chairs, upgraded chairs and tables, and maybe even new carpet."

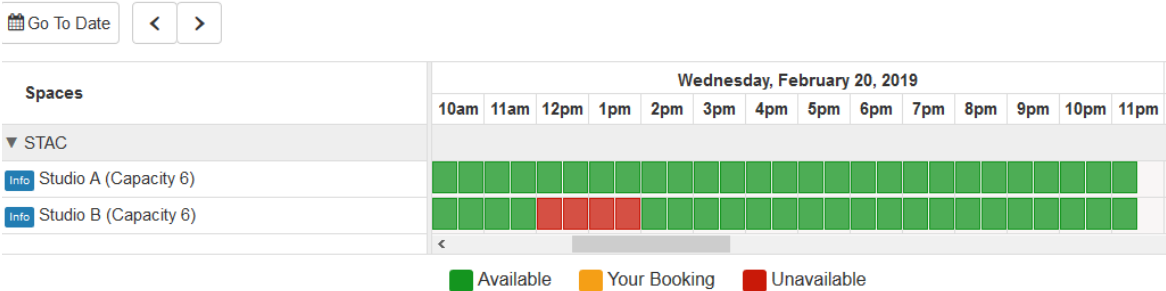
We based our capital request on student needs. In 2015, the library staff conducted a detailed [building use study](#) to determine how, where and why students study in the Dunbar Library. We learned a lot! The students requested more quiet study areas and private spaces for individuals and groups to meet. They asked for computers in designated quiet areas and printing stations throughout the library. Additionally, they asked for updated furniture and a cleaner, more welcoming environment. Our plans were designed to match these needs and soon new carpet, furniture, and the creation of more quiet study areas and private study rooms was underway.

With the help of many library staff and Facilities Maintenance and Campus Operations staff, we completed half of the project in 2018. Library materials were shifted to new locations and 39 ranges of shelving were removed from the second floor. This allowed us to create a designated quiet study room in the second floor annex and open up additional group space in the library atrium. Carpet was replaced on the 2nd through 4th floors and new rubber treads were installed on the stairwells.



We also re-purposed several former staff areas to increase our private study rooms from four to thirteen. There are three different types of rooms now available including quiet, individual study rooms with dual-screen computers and networked printing; group study rooms for up to 10, two with projectors and all with whiteboards; and the STAC studios, ideal for audio and video recording and multimedia editing. Wright State University students and employees may [book a room online](#) any time or by calling the Information Desk at 775-2925.

"I think having individual study rooms that you can book out would be great."



Book a room online any time with our self-service calendar

Our building improvement project should be complete in December of 2019. New furniture, most of which was on display in the library atrium during the Fall term to collect student feedback, should find its way here during the Summer term, and all four Dunbar Library elevators will be replaced in 2019 utilizing state capital funds from a separate campus project. We hope you will visit over the summer to see our many changes.

# Special Collections and Archives

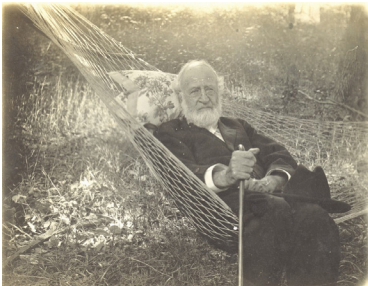


Preservation and outreach were the focus of Special Collections and Archives' efforts in 2018. A successful Raise Wright crowdfunding campaign in June resulted in conservation work being carried out on the Wright Brothers 1912 Bent End Propeller by McKay Lodge Art Conservation Laboratory. We were awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in October through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant is being used for preservation work on selected items in the Wright Brothers Collection, including a rare book from their personal library, Orville Wright's pocket telephone directory, and two rare photograph albums.

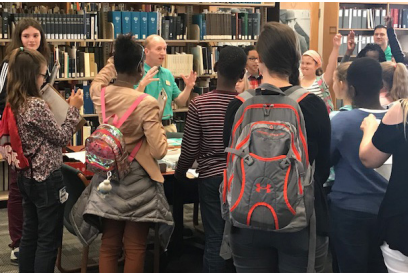


We continued our *Discover Your Story* campaign for the new Special Collections and Archives facility to be located at 2455 Presidential Drive, across from campus. Total funds raised are nearing the million dollar mark. A phased approach has been developed and the plan is to relocate the Archives' reading room and a portion of the collections by the end of 2019. Subsequent phases will result in the entire collection's relocation and the building of the new exhibit gallery, preservation and processing labs.

Numerous digital projects throughout the year resulted in increased archival content in CORE Scholar, most notably the completion of the Bishop Milton Wright diaries project through Digital Initiatives and Repository Services (for more on this project see page 10). These diaries, highlighting the father of the Wright brothers and the social and cultural history of the time, are a rich addition to the extensive Wright Brothers Collection content already in CORE Scholar.

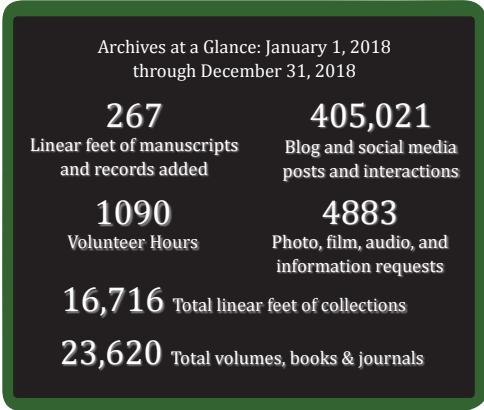


New collection additions throughout the year resulted in additional resources on aviation and local and regional history preserved for future generations. Significant progress was made on collection processing, making more resources available to researchers. The Archives continued as a learning laboratory for Wright State Public History graduate students.



Our outreach efforts extended to WSU classes and K-12 students in the Miami Valley. Numerous presentations, tours, and special events added to the visibility and use of primary sources. Selected items were loaned for special exhibits at the National Afro American Museum and Cultural Center and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. A new video series called *In the Archives* was launched with students from the New Media Incubator and Wright State University Friends of the Libraries' sponsorship. The Archives continued strong ties with partners across the globe.

"There should be a red carpet running through campus to your front door."



"Good news at Wright State University! Best university archives collection and archivists in Ohio and probably in the US."



# Making the Milton Wright Diaries Available Online



Bishop Milton Wright, the father of the Wright Brothers was a dedicated diarist. In 1857, he began carrying pocket-sized journals that he would complete over the course of a year documenting his travels, work, finances, and family life. These volumes give us a glimpse of life during the period and a better understanding of the family life and values of the Wrights. Making these rich volumes from the Wright Brothers Collection available to a worldwide audience was the goal of this digitization project. Digital Initiatives and Repository Services (DIRS) digitized the 46 diaries by Milton Wright and made the final digital versions available online via CORE Scholar.

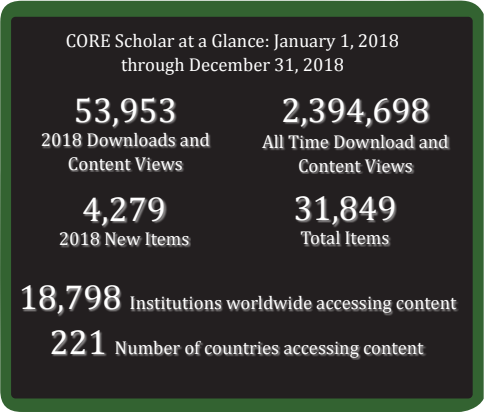
While the diaries provide an interesting look into the life of the Wright brothers' father, they were not ideal materials for digitization. The diaries themselves are

quite small and their age has made them fragile. Their physical condition required our staff to use extreme care while handling the diaries and turning each of the 5410 pages for scanning. The color of the books, their size, and the shifting of loose pages gave us the opportunity to try innovative ways to generate files. For example, our book scanner had difficulty auto-detecting the edges of the individual pages. Staff used white, acid-free paper, to boost the scanner's edge detection abilities. This made the next steps of manipulation, cropping, straightening, and converting the files to PDFs much less painstaking of tasks. The resulting files provide the user with views of the books that look as if you were in the SC&A Reading Room viewing the originals.

Another step in the process of making the diaries accessible online was writing item level metadata. Metadata is the information that describes any resource whether that is a digital object, like an image or a document file, or even raw data. Metadata allows the library to organize and provide access to our digital objects in CORE Scholar so that users can easily search our collections to find pertinent items. Typically, archival collections are not described at the item level. Due to Milton's status as father of the Wright Brothers and the



uniqueness of this collection, DIRS was tasked with describing the diaries in detail. Initially this seemed to be an enormous job to comb through thousands of pages in the 46 diaries to create unique descriptions for each individual volume, but we were fortunate because the diaries were transcribed and made available as a book, [Diaries 1857-1917](#). We digitized this book, which allowed for searching the text for important words and phrases written by the Bishop. Since Milton's life has been thoroughly researched and biographical information has been published, our staff knew many of the topics and events to search for in the diaries and highlight in the metadata. With each volume of the diary, the accompanying transcription was uploaded to CORE Scholar to make the text searchable for the user rather than having to decipher the Bishop's handwriting. The item level metadata caused this project to take a bit longer than one with a more generic description, but it enables faster searching and for users to be able to hone in on topics that they are interested in more easily. To view the diaries visit [CORE Scholar](#).



"I will promote CORE Scholar in any way that I can. Contacting you some time ago was one of the best career moves that I made."

# Friends of the Libraries

The Friends of the Libraries celebrated their 40th year with a variety of events. They held the Library Student Assistant Awards Ceremony, Top Scholars, the Annual Luncheon, and supported library staff through the annual grant process, National Library Week, and the library’s staff recognition ceremony.

“Words cannot express how much of a help it is to me, especially this year. Your support truly helps me to finance my own way through college.”

Sixteen students were honored with Library Student Assistant Awards in 2018, totaling \$8,000 in scholarships. The recipients included: Richard Hairston, Stephanie Colby, Krishel Stout, Aaliyah Williams, Heather Cagle, Matthew Crooker, Rebekah Colliver, Kathryn (KC) Lyphout, and Alyssa Stark in Spring, 2018. Molly Mackenzie Banfield, Genevieve Coutinho, Eric Dahlstrom, Maria Hess, Alexis Rakovan, Buddhika Senanayake, and Kyle Wilson in Fall 2018.

In April, 2018 the Friends honored seven students with Top Scholar awards. The Top Scholar Awards began in 1995 as a collaboration between the Wright State Parents Association and the Friends of the Libraries. Top Scholars, selected by the Office of the Dean in each College and the Lake Campus, are presented with a certificate and book in their honor. The book becomes a permanent part of the University Libraries’ collections and contains a bookplate with the student’s name, major, and award. The recipients are shown in the photo with our Board members in order of appearance left to right as follows: Zachary R. Overholser, College of Education & Human Services; Eric D. Boyd, Raj Soin College of Business; Molly H. Donovan, College of Engineering & Computer Science; Lauren E. Mellon, College of Nursing & Health; Jamie M. Krupp, College of Liberal Arts; Rebecca E. Ewing, College of Science & Mathematics; Mitchell A. Fleming, Lake Campus.

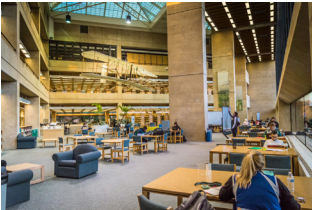


Nearly 50 Friends, library staff, and guests attended the Annual Luncheon on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Paul Helfrich, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance, was our featured speaker. Mr. Helfrich discussed the formation of the Dayton Performing Arts Alliance - how they did it and how they are doing now. The Special Collections and Archives brought a display of materials highlighting a variety of arts collections housed in the archives. Two library student assistants, Heather Cagle and KC Lyphout, both of whom are dance majors and Spring 2018 LSAA winners, wrapped up the luncheon with a special dance performance commissioned for the FOL 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon.

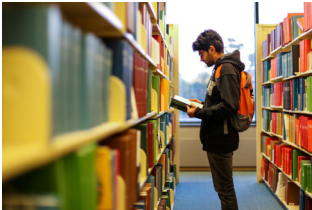
The Friends Board approved funding for three library staff grant proposals at their March meeting. The first award was granted to Jane Wildermuth, Head of Digital Initiatives & Repository Services, to upgrade and replace audio and document digitization equipment. The funds will help to create a mobile digitization station that will allow for flexibility and portability when scanning large, fragile items.

The second grant was given to Mandy Shannon, Head of Instruction & Research Services. Mandy is conducting a research project to identify the impact of library instruction on student retention and success. The funds will allow Mandy to contract with the Statistical Consulting Center to conduct propensity score matching to help identify the unique impact of library instruction on student retention and academic achievement.

The third award went to Frank Wolz in Library Technology Services. Frank conducted a student photo contest to solicit photos taken of, or in, the University Libraries. Twenty-three students submitted over 100 images and three winners were selected. The photos will be used for marketing, social media, and computer screen savers. Winners of the award were:



1<sup>st</sup> place:  
Soham Dipakbhai Parikh



2<sup>nd</sup> place:  
Nishanth Gottumukkala



3<sup>rd</sup> place:  
Jaelynn Thomas



# Research Toolkits



For many students, learning to do academic research is one of the biggest challenges they face in the transition to college. Since 2014, the Instruction and Research Services department has offered a series of information literacy workshops called the Research Toolkit. We developed these eight stand-alone workshops to help students with areas frequently identified as an obstacle in the research process. These included, among others, searching databases effectively, evaluating information, and how to read a scholarly article strategically. When we first introduced these to faculty and staff, the very first question we received was, “when will these be available online?”

Over the next few years, we realized two things: first, that the students who attended Research Toolkit workshops found them valuable and that their

instructors noticed a difference in their work; and, second, that students weren’t attending unless their instructors incentivized them to do so. We also began pilot-testing one workshop in an online format. High use of this workshop and feedback about it demonstrated there was a great deal of interest in the online workshops from both students and faculty.

## In 2018, we were able to make four workshops fully available online:

- [More than Books: What the Library Can Do for You](#) – an introduction to the library’s services and resources.
- [Stop Searching and Start Finding](#) –guides students through selecting appropriate databases, searching keywords and subject terms, and using the tools in databases to filter and refine results.
- [Detecting CRAAP: Evaluating Information Sources](#) – helps users develop strategies for evaluating the appropriateness of an information source.
- [Integrating Your Sources](#) – provides instruction on how to quote and paraphrase sources while avoiding plagiarism and keeping the student’s own voice the focus of the paper.

In order for students who completed the workshops to earn credit, we worked with the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) to format these modules to integrate into Pilot, the Learning Management System used by Wright State. In 2018, 533 different students viewed these workshops through Pilot courses.

The Instruction and Research Services department is planning how to move forward with the next two workshops in the series, 3 Simple Steps to Reading a Scholarly Article and Finding the “Perfect Source.”

“This workshop was wonderful & informative...I’m much more comfortable using the databases & have a network to rely on for help.”

# Challenges

The University Libraries mission is to provide exceptional research services and resources to facilitate faculty and student success. In 2017, we reported on the challenges that affected us as we strove to fulfill this mission; in 2018, we face the same challenges.

**Budget:** The Libraries’ materials budget, which was reduced by 5% in FY 18, was further cut by 20% for FY 19. Prior to FY 18, the materials budget had been flat since FY 12. The Libraries have been feeling the impact of flat or reduced budgets for several years (see the budget chart on page18 of this report), but the 20% cut for FY 19 forced us to make significant cuts to databases, journals, and books.

Among the more significant cuts were: altering IEEE package (eliminating access to materials more than 10 years old as well as to many conferences and to standards) and canceling more than 250 important journals from publishers such as: American Institute of Physics, BMJ Publishing, Elsevier, Oxford, Royal Society of Chemistry, Springer/Nature, and Taylor and Francis.

Canceling specialized databases that served faculty teaching and research needs, including: Ageline, Compustat, Films on Demand, Lexis/Nexis Academic, Philosopher’s Index, and reducing funds for the purchase of books.

**Staffing:** We saw additional staff reductions in 2018 due to layoffs, reductions in hours, and the transfer of IT staff to CATS. Overall, our staff FTE for 2018 was 40, compared to 63 in FY 2016. Service hours, workshops, and educational outreach activities were canceled as a result.

**Facilities:** While the Dunbar Library has received state capital funding to replace carpet and furniture (see article on page 6), this funding did not address the needs of our Special Collections and Archives department. They are currently housed on the 4th floor of the Dunbar Library with additional storage space in the basement of the Medical Sciences building. These spaces do not offer the controlled environment needed to protect the unique and priceless collections they house. They also do not provide adequate space for instruction, processing and preserving collections, or to acquire new collections. Staff in Special Collections are considering letting go of some collections in order to take in new ones; they are also faced with the possibility of having to turn away large collections due to lack of space. The proposed move to 2455 Presidential Drive would resolve these issues, but funding has delayed the process.

In 2018 ...



3,797 print books & 25,997 ebooks  
and electronic media items were added to collections

CORE Scholar,  
Wright State's  
Institutional Repository,  
had 554,000  
downloads  
4279 new uploads

Providing open-access  
materials to researchers  
around the world



Paul Laurence Dunbar Library  
welcomed

500,000  
visitors



items requested  
from partner  
institutions via  
OhioLINK, SearchOhio  
and Interlibrary Loan

Library computer  
users logged on

67,000  
times



Our website  
received over

373,000  
visits



Instruction and  
Research Services  
librarians hosted

1,050

instruction  
sessions



and one-on-one  
appointments with  
students and faculty



Materials Budget vs. Library Materials Inflation  
FY 2006 - FY 2019

